

FLORIDA Farm Labor

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The number of workers paid by farmers and agricultural services totaled 49,000 for the week of October 8 through 14. Farmers hired 44,000 in October 2006 compared with 43,000 in July 2006 and 42,000 in October 2005. Agricultural services provided 5,000 paid workers, up 2,000 from last quarter as well as those supplied a year ago.

Dry weather allowed vegetable harvesting to advance on schedule during the survey week. However, another dry week did not help with the harvesting of field crops, since this has been an extremely dry year for field crops in the Panhandle area. The hardened soils made it difficult for growers to dig in fields with some peanuts losing pods. In Jefferson County, the pecan crop is light due to drought. Vegetable growers marketed light supplies of sweet corn, cucumbers, okra, squash, and tomatoes. Temperatures were slightly cooler than normal in citrus-producing counties. Growers irrigated regularly due to lack of precipitation. Grove maintenance included pre-harvest mowing, herbiciding, and late supplemental sulfur spraying. Scouting for canker and greening by growers as well as caretakers continued.

The October combined Farmers and Agricultural Services all hired worker wage rate averaged \$9.47 per hour, 12 cents more than the \$9.35 paid last year and 6 cents more than last quarter's \$9.41. Farmers paid an average of \$9.42 per hour, 2 cents higher than the \$9.40 paid in July 2006 and 9 cents above the \$9.33 paid in October 2005. Agricultural Services paid workers an average of \$9.90 per hour, 40 cents higher than the \$9.50 paid last quarter and 25 cents above the \$9.65 paid a year ago.

UNITED STATES

Hired Workers Down 5 Percent, Wage Rates Up 4 Percent From a Year Ago

There were 1,077,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 8-14, 2006, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 797,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 280,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.95 per hour during the October 2006 reference week, up 34 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$9.25 per hour, up 35 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$9.41 per hour compared with \$9.15 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$9.29 per hour, was up 33 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 41.6 hours for hired workers during the survey week, down 1 percent from a year ago.

The largest decreases in the number of hired farm workers from last year occurred in the Lake (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin), Southern Plains (Oklahoma and Texas), Southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina), and Mountain I (Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming) regions. Rain, snow, and freezing temperatures in the Lake region slowed progress of field activities considerably, decreasing the need for hired workers. In the Southern Plains region, cool, wet weather in Texas caused most field work to be delayed, lowering the demand for hired workers. Drought conditions throughout most of the Southeast region curtailed hay growth and postponed small grain seeding which led to a minimized demand for field workers. In the Mountain I region, rain and wet fields slowed progress of winter wheat seeding and lessened the need for hired workers.

The largest increases in the number of hired farm workers from a year ago were in the Pacific (Oregon and Washington), Northeast II (Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania), and Appalachian II (Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia) regions, and Florida. In the Pacific region, ideal weather allowed winter wheat seeding and fall crop harvests to progress rapidly, increasing the demand for hired workers. Field activities in the Northeast II region were accelerating due to the drier conditions compared with last year's very wet reference week. Therefore, more hired workers were needed. In the Appalachian II region, cotton and soybean harvests in Tennessee continued to make excellent progress and remained ahead of normal, necessitating more field workers. In Florida, drier conditions compared with the previous year's deluge of tropical storms led to more normal progress of field activities and caused stronger demand for hired workers.

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United States
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Of Agriculture



National
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Florida
Field Office

Benjamin F. Klugh, Jr.
Director
407/648-6013

TABLE 1 -- Florida agricultural workers, number of workers, wage rates, and hours worked, October 8-14, 2006, with comparisons

Employer, Year, and survey week	Hired Workers						
	Number of workers			Hours Worked Per Week	Wages Paid by Type of Work		
	All	Expected to work			All	Field	Livestock
		150 days or more	149 days or less				

HIRED BY FARMERS ^{1/}

2006		Thousands			Hours	Dollars Per Hour ^{2/}		
	October 8 - 14	44.0	40.0	4.0	41.1	9.42	8.50	9.10
	July 9 - 15	43.0	38.0	5.0	41.0	9.40	8.39	9.10
	April 9 - 15	52.0	44.0	8.0	40.4	9.19	8.37	8.50
	January 8 – 14	49.0	38.0	11.0	39.2	9.55	8.80	8.80
2005								
	October 9 - 15	42.0	37.0	5.0	39.4	9.33	8.60	8.45
	July 10 - 16	41.0	39.0	2.0	41.3	9.70	8.75	9.15
	April 10 - 16	49.0	41.0	8.0	38.7	9.31	8.20	9.90
	January 9 - 15	48.0	37.0	11.0	38.7	9.52	8.50	8.60
2004								
	October 9 - 15	52.0	44.0	8.0	39.4	9.14	7.95	9.10

**HIRED BY
AGRICULTURAL SERVICES**

2006								
	October 8- 14	5.0		42.0	9.90			
	July 9 - 15	3.0		45.0	9.50			
	April 9 - 15	8.0		40.0	9.60			
	January 8 - 14	9.0		40.0	9.20			
2005								
	October 9 - 15	3.0		41.0	9.65			
	July 10 -16	2.0		45.0	9.90			
	April 10 - 16	10.0		39.0	9.10			
	January 9 - 15	8.0		40.0	9.50			
2004								
	October 9 - 15	3.0		40.0	10.20			

**HIRED BY BOTH FARMERS &
AGRICULTURAL SERVICES**

2006								
	October 8 - 14	49.0		9.47				
	July 9 - 15	46.0		9.41				
	April 9 - 15	60.0		9.24				
	January 8 - 14	58.0		9.49				
2005								
	October 9 - 15	45.0		9.35				
	July 10 -16	43.0		9.71				
	April 10 - 16	59.0		9.27				
	January 9 - 15	56.0		9.52				
2004								
	October 10 - 16	55.0		9.20				

^{1/} Excludes Agricultural Services workers.

^{2/} Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

**TABLE 2 -- Number of workers hired by farmers, wage rates, and hours worked,
Selected States, October 8–14, 2006, with comparisons ^{1/}**

Item	Florida	California	Texas & Oklahoma	Arizona & New Mexico	Hawaii	United States ^{2/}
<i>Thousands</i>						
ALL HIRED WORKERS						
October 8 - 14, 2006	44	183	49	21	7	797
July 9 – 15, 2006	43	*191	53	25	7	*876
October 9 - 15, 2005	42	183	64	25	7	842
EXPECTED TO WORK						
150 days or more						
October 8 - 14, 2006	40	149	36	20	6	592
July 9 – 15, 2006	38	160	38	23	6	630
October 9 - 15, 2005	37	146	51	20	6	621
149 days or less						
October 8 - 14, 2006	4	34	13	1	1	205
July 9 – 15, 2006	5	*31	15	2	1	*246
October 9 - 15, 2005	5	37	13	5	1	221
<i>Dollars per hour ^{3/}</i>						
ALL HIRED WORKER WAGE RATE						
October 8 - 14, 2006	9.42	10.10	9.60	8.50	12.47	9.95
July 9 – 15, 2006	9.40	*9.89	9.38	8.70	12.31	*9.72
October 9 - 15, 2005	9.33	10.13	8.38	8.28	11.73	9.61
WAGES BY TYPE OF WORKER						
Field & Livestock						
October 8 - 14, 2006	8.58	9.31	9.02	8.05	10.69	9.29
July 9 – 15, 2006	8.48	*9.09	8.75	8.12	10.38	*9.07
October 9 - 15, 2005	8.58	9.37	7.68	7.67	10.18	8.96
Field						
October 8 - 14, 2006	8.50	9.13	8.14	7.56	10.61	9.25
July 9 – 15, 2006	8.39	*8.92	8.53	7.55	10.26	*8.93
October 9 - 15, 2005	8.60	9.21	7.60	7.27	10.10	8.90
Livestock						
October 8 - 14, 2006	9.10	10.40	10.09	8.86	^{4/}	9.41
July 9 – 15, 2006	9.10	*10.24	9.12	9.10	^{4/}	*9.49
October 9 - 15, 2005	8.45	10.45	7.84	8.87	^{4/}	9.15
<i>Average hours per week</i>						
HOURS WORKED BY ALL HIRED WORKERS						
October 8 - 14, 2006	41.1	44.6	39.7	45.1	37.9	41.6
July 9 – 15, 2006	41.0	*46.4	37.6	47.2	39.1	*41.0
October 9 - 15, 2005	39.4	44.4	39.1	44.8	39.7	42.0

^{1/} Excludes Agricultural Service workers.

^{2/} United States exclude Alaska.

^{3/} Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

^{4/} Insufficient data for livestock.

*Revised.

Hired farm worker wage rates were generally above a year ago in most regions. The largest increases occurred in the Pacific, Southern Plains, Mountain II (Colorado, Nevada, and Utah), Mountain I, and Delta (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi) regions. In the Pacific and Mountain II regions, the higher wages were due to a larger percentage of salaried workers putting in fewer hours, which pushed the average hourly wage higher. The higher wages in the Southern Plains region were due to the wet conditions which kept hours worked down and drove the wage rates up. In the Mountain I region, the higher wages were due to a lower proportion of part time workers. The higher wages in the Delta region were due to a greater percentage of nursery and greenhouse workers in the work force.

ANNUAL WAGES, HIRED WORKERS AND HOURS

The 2006 U.S. hired worker annual average wage rate was \$9.87, up nearly 4 percent from the 2005 annual wage rate of \$9.51. The U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$9.06, up 36 cents from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average rate at the U.S. level was \$9.15, up nearly 4 percent from last year's annual wage of \$8.84.

The 2006 hired worker annual wage rate for Florida average \$9.38, down 8 cents from the 2005 annual average of \$9.46. The annual average wage rate for Florida field workers was \$8.51, up one cent from last year's annual average. The field and livestock worker combined annual average wage rate for Florida was \$8.56, equal to last year's annual average wage rate.

TABLE 3--Annual average wage rates, number of hired workers, and hours worked, 2005 and 2006^{1/2/}

State and Region	Wages by Type of Worker			Number of Hired Workers	Hours Worked by Hired Workers
	All Hired ^{3/}	Field	Field & Livestock		
2006					
Florida	9.38	8.51	8.56	47.0	40.4
Texas & Oklahoma	9.33	8.17	8.66	50.0	38.9
Arizona & New Mexico	8.91	7.78	8.27	21.0	46.9
California	10.09	9.00	9.20	159.0	44.2
Hawaii	12.18	10.20	10.32	7.0	37.8
United States ^{4/}	9.87	9.06	9.15	751.8	40.5
2005					
Florida	9.46	8.50	8.56	45.0	39.5
Texas & Oklahoma	9.08	7.92	8.32	58.0	38.7
Arizona & New Mexico	8.61	7.66	8.01	21.5	45.1
California	9.77	8.81	9.01	178.5	44.0
Hawaii	11.59	9.93	10.00	7.0	38.9
United States ^{4/}	9.51	8.70	8.84	780.0	40.1

^{1/} Excludes Agricultural Service Workers.

^{2/} Annual rates are averages of the published wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average for all States, Regions, and the U.S. is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October.

^{3/} Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

^{4/} Excludes AK.